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Rehearsal Script

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"DOCTOR WHO"

SERIAL 6S

'THE TWIN DILEMMA'

by

Anthony Steven

EPISODE THREE

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"DOCTOR WHO" SERIAL 6S EPISODE 3: 'The Twin Dilemma'

CAST:

THE DOCTOR
PERI
HUGO
MESTOR
DRAK
NOMA
EDGEWORTH
CHAMBERLAIN (FEMALE)
PRISONER/VOICE
FIRST GUARD

N/S:

JOCONDAN GUARDS

* * * * *

SETS:

Tardis Console Room

Edgeworth's Space-craft: Bridge

Palace Composite: Throne Room
Passageway
Corridor
Laboratory

* * * * * *

TELECINE:

Joconda: Forest Grove

* * * * *

MODEL:

Edgeworth's Ship
Landing on Joconda

* * * * *

"DOCTOR WHO"

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REPRISE THEN:

1. INT. TARDIS CONSOLE ROOM.

(SUDDENLY THE
DOCTOR MATERIALISES
THEN
DEMATERIALISES)

PERI: Doctor?

(TO HUGO)

Did you see that?

HUGO: (OPEN MOUTHED) I think so.

(PERI WILDLY
FEELS THE AREA
THE DOCTOR
MOMENTARILY FILLED)

PERI: (EXTREME ANXIETY) Doctor! Doctor, are you there?

HUGO: (WILDLY) In heaven's name, what's going on?

(HUGO GRABS HER
BY THE ARM)

You're flesh and blood, at least.

(PERI BREAKS FREE
FROM HIM)

PERI: (FURIOUS) Leave me alone!

2. INT. TARDIS CONSOLE ROOM.

(THE DOCTOR.

NO SIGN OF
PERI OR HUGO.

HE IS LOOKING
AROUND, PERI'S
WATCH IN HIS
HAND)

THE DOCTOR: (IRRITABLY) That stupid girl's watch!

(HE CROSSES TO
CONSOLE, STARTS
FIDDLING WITH IT
TO RE-ALIGN HIMSELF
(IN TIME) WITH
PERI)

How I hate these hit-or-miss performances.

3. INT. TARDIS. CONSOLE ROOM.

(HUGO AND PERI.

THE DOCTOR
MATERIALISES IN
FRONT OF THEM)

PERI: (VASTLY RELIEVED) Oh, Doctor! Thank heavens. Whatever happened?

(HE HANDS HER
BACK HER WATCH)

THE DOCTOR: Your watch stopped. I over-compensated, and arrived in the wrong time zone - ten seconds into your future.

PERI: I thought you'd been killed.

THE DOCTOR: You cared?

PERI: Of course I did.

THE DOCTOR: I will never understand the people of Earth. I've spent the day using, abusing and even trying to kill you. If you had behaved as I have, I would have been pleased at your demise.

PERI: It's called compassion. It's the difference that will always remain between us, Doctor.

THE DOCTOR: Earthlings!

(HUGO IS LOOKING FROM ONE TO THE OTHER WITH GROWING BEWILDERMENT)

HUGO: Would someone like to explain what is happening.

(HE HAS HIS GUN IN HIS HANDS AS HE SPEAKS)

THE DOCTOR: Ah! Lieutenant Lang. How are you feeling?

HUGO: I was fine.

(SHAKES HEAD AS THOUGH TO CLEAR IT)

I'm not sure any more. My ship ...

THE DOCTOR: You were lucky to escape. Nobody else did.

(HUGO TURNS AWAY AT THIS NEWS.

PERI GOES TO HIM)

PERI: I'm sorry. What went wrong?

HUGO: (MUTTERING) I don't know. The controls seized. After that I don't remember anything until I came to in here. (RECOVERING SUSPICIOUS) What is this place? Who are you?

PERI: I'm Peri. This is the Doctor. He saved your life.

THE DOCTOR: And we did not abduct the twins.

(RECOLLECTION FLOODS BACK TO HUGO)

HUGO: The twins! How do you know about them?

THE DOCTOR: Never mind that now. (IRRITABLE GESTURE TOWARDS GUN) Do put that thing away!

(HUGO LOWERS GUN)

If you ever hope to get them back in one piece, your only chance is to come with us.

HUGO: Where to?

THE DOCTOR: At a guess: Joconda.

HUGO: I see ... Well, you don't leave me much choice, do you?

(THE DOCTOR, WHO HAS ALREADY LOST INTEREST)

THE DOCTOR: Not really.

(THE DOCTOR MOVES TO CONSOLE, AND SETS TARDIS ON COURSE. THE TIME ROTOR STARTS TO OSCILLATE)

4. INT. EDGEWORTH'S SPACECRAFT. BRIDGE.

(DRAK AT THE CONTROLS.

NOMA IN BACKGROUND.

THE TWINS FACING EDGEWORTH)

ROMULUS: He was your friend!

REMUS: That girl did you no harm!

ROMULUS: You've left them there to die!

EDGEWORTH: (WEARILY) They will survive. Now, if you don't mind -

REMUS: And your name isn't Edgeworth -

ROMULUS: It's Azmael!

EDGEWORTH: (WEARILY) Yes, yes. A small deception, I agree. Now be patient and sensible.

(WE CAN SEE THAT NOMA HAS BEEN LISTENING TO THEIR CONVERSATION)

DRAK'S VOICE: (O.S.) Master.

(EDGEWORTH LEAVES TWINS, MOVES ACROSS TO DRAK)

EDGEWORTH: What is it?

DRAK: (INDICATING) That blip on the scanner.

EDGEWORTH: (PEERING) Yes ... Very far ahead.

DRAK: We're on the same course.

EDGEWORTH: Some merchantman. (DISMISSING) No concern of ours.

(AS EDGEWORTH TURNS AWAY, NOMA APPROACHES HIM)

NOMA: (COLD) They will not survive.

(EDGEWORTH STARES AT HIM)

EDGEWORTH: I don't understand.

NOMA: The safe house. I set it to self-destruct.

EDGEWORTH: (HORRIFIED) You madman! I gave no orders!

(NOMA LOOKS AT EDGEWORTH WITH A COOL, SCARCELY CONCEALED INSOLENCE)

NOMA: That is perfectly correct.

(EDGEWORTH IS SO
SHOCKED THAT HE
CAN SCARCELY FIND
WORDS)

EDGEWORTH: But it's murder!
Why, Noma, why?

NOMA: It is what the Lord
Mestor would have wished.

5. INT. TARDIS. CONSOLE ROOM.

(THE DOCTOR, PERI AND HUGO.

THE DOCTOR IS HAVING ONE OF HIS MORE RATIONAL MOMENTS)

PERI: But why would he want to kill us?

THE DOCTOR: I cannot answer that.

PERI: And if he's going to Joconda, why stop off at Titan Three?

HUGO: Oh, that was just to throw us off the scent -

THE DOCTOR: (IMPATIENT INTERRUPTION) No, no. None of this matters any more. Consider what we know. Azmael, or whatever he may be calling him self, needs the genius of the twins. He crosses galaxies to possess their minds. He tells me he is no longer Master of his own planet. That he has to save his people. (INCREDULOUS) That I cannot help him to do so! (cont ...)

(THE DOCTOR PAUSES FOR A MOMENT TO REFLECT UPON THE ENORMITY OF THIS LAST STATEMENT)

THE DOCTOR: (cont) You know, if he really believe such unimaginable rubbish, then he is faced by some unimaginable disaster which has unhinged his brain ... Well, we shall soon discover what it is.

6. INT. JOCONDA. MESTOR'S THRONE ROOM.

(MESTOR SITS ON HIS THRONE.

THE JOCONDAN, WHO ACTS AS HIS CHAMBERLAIN, STANDS NEARBY.

HOWEVER MUCH SHE MAY BE UNDER THE MENTAL CONTROL OF MESTOR

THIS WOMAN IS THE SORT WHO WOULD - IN HER OWN INTEREST - DESERT TO A VICTORIOUS ENEMY.

SHE IS OBSEQUIOUS AND ANXIOUS FOR HER NEW MASTER'S GOOD OPINION)

CHAMBERLAIN: Bring in the prisoner.

(A JOCONDAN PRISONER IS MARCHED IN BETWEEN TWO JOCONDAN GUARDS, ONE OF WHOM CARRIES A SMALL SACK.

THEY HALT IN FRONT OF THE DAIS.

THE PRISONER IS A POORLY-CLOTHED PEASANT, VISIBLY TERRIFIED.

THE CHAMBERLAIN TAKES SACK FROM GUARD)

MESTOR: Who is this creature?

CHAMBERLAIN: A porter from the royal hatcheries, master.

MESTOR: What is his crime?

CHAMBERLAIN: (SHOWING SACK) After routine search following his tour of duty, he was found to have this concealed on his person.

MESTOR: What does it contain?

(CHAMBERLAIN EMPTIES CONTENTS OF SACK ON FLOOR.

VEGETABLES)

CHAMBERLAIN: Vegetables from the royal hatcheries, master.

MESTOR: The punishment is death. (TO PRISONER) Have you anything to say?

PRISONER: Mercy, great master, mercy! My family are starving!

MESTOR: Many are starving. It is no defence. And now your family will starve without your company. (TO GUARDS) Stand aside.

(THE GUARDS MOVE AWAY FROM PRISONER)

(TO PRISONER) You will suffer the maximum penalty. Death by embolism.

(THE PRISONER'S TERROR BECOMES UNCONTROLLABLE)

PRISONER: (SCREAMING) Not that! Let them shoot me - shoot me!

(BUT IT'S GOING TO BE BUBBLES IN THE BLOOD STREAM, JUST THE SAME.

THE PRISONER BECOMES BATHED IN A GREENISH LIGHT WHICH SEEMS TO EMANATE FROM MESTOR.

AT THE SAME TIME, ALSO EMANATING FROM ASLAN, THERE COMES AN ALMOST SUPERSONIC NOTE.

IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY AUDIBLE.

UNBEARABLE TO THE EARS, ITS PITCH INCREASING IN PENETRATION, IT IS CONCENTRAT-LIKE A BEAM UPON THE PRISONER.

THE PRISONER PUTS HIS HANDS TO HIS HEAD, AND PROCEEDS TO GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF A DIVER SUFFERING THE EXTREMITIES OF THE BENDS.

IT DOESN'T LAST LONG.

THE PRISONER DROPS DEAD)

MESTOR: Cold storage. (cont ...)

(THE CHAMBERLAIN CLICKS HER FINGERS AT THE GUARDS)

MESTOR: (cont) The carcase may be useful to our slaves if the famine continues.

(THE TWO GUARDS CARRY THE BODY OUT)

(TO CHAMBERLAIN) Azmael will soon be here.

CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, master.

MESTOR: When he arrives, have him escorted to his laboratory with the earthlings. I will see him there.

TELECINE 1:

Ext. Joconda. Forest Grove.

It would be more correct to say that it was formerly a forest grove.

These surroundings, which may once have been beautiful, are now quite horrible.

Not a vestige of vegetation or foliage survives.

Only the blackened trunks and branches of dead trees, stripped of their bark, stand exposed beneath a bland sun and a bald sky.

The dark soil is baked and cracked, and criss-crossed with strange, silvery tracks about a meter wide.

The total silence impresses us.

No bird-song. No leaves stirring in a breeze. A prevailing eeriness intensified by the strong light.

THE TARDIS MATERIALISES.

7. INT. TARDIS. CONSOLE ROOM.

(THE DOCTOR, PERI AND HUGO)

THE DOCTOR: (EUPHORIC) Joconda the beautiful! I am here in your hour of need ... (TOTALLY MATTER OF FACT) Whatever that may prove to be.

(WITHOUT MORE ADO, HE CROSSES TO DOOR OF TARDIS, OPENS IT)

TELECINE 2:

Ext. Joconda. Forest Grove.

THE DOCTOR steps out of Tardis into sunshine, stands with his face towards the sky, and his arms raised above his head like an Old Testament prophet.

PERI and HUGO emerge behind him, look round, taking in scene.

PERI: (DISBELIEF) You call this beautiful? Doctor it's absolutely ghastly!

The sound of her voice brings THE DOCTOR back to earth.

He lowers his gaze, takes in scene with growing consternation.

THE DOCTOR: (SOFTLY, APPALLED) Oh, no. Let it not be true! (cont ...)

He runs forward, darting this way and that - examining the bark on the ruined trees, dropping on one knee beside the nearest track, touching the surface with his finger, sniffing it.

When he rises, there is a droop to his shoulders. He is a very shaken Doctor.

THE DOCTOR: (cont) (AMOST TO HIMSELF) The giant gastropods ...

HUGO: (ROUGHLY) What are you talking about?

THE DOCTOR: (SAME TONE) ... half human and half slug. Part of Jocondan mythology.

PERI: So?

THE DOCTOR: Look around you. Look at the devastation.

PERI: Gastropods did this?

THE DOCTOR: What else?

PERI: Are you sure your mind isn't wondering again?

THE DOCTOR: Of course not! (TO HIMSELF) It wasn't a myth after all. Somehow, somewhere their seed survived. And now they have returned!

HUGO: Doctor, that's utter nonsense ...

THE DOCTOR: (MORE ANIMATED NOW) You think so?

HUGO: Well, of course it is!

THE DOCTOR: I wish I could agree. (GAZING ROUND) This was once a forest grove. Look at those trees! Not a trace of foliage! The very bark stripped from their trunks! And the soil! Nothing grows. (cont ...)

THE DOCTOR: (cont) Only those tell-tale tracks - the slime trails of giant gastropods ... I fear the evidence is quite conclusive.

PERI: Doctor, you're beginning to scare me ...

THE DOCTOR: I'm beginning to scare myself, Peri.

PERI: What are we going to do?

THE DOCTOR: Into the Tardis!

THE GROUP move back towards the Tardis.

I must think.

8. INT. EDGEWORTH SPACECRAFT. BRIDGE.

(EDGEWORTH SPEAKING
TO GROUND CONTROL)

EDGEWORTH: Freighter to Joconda control. Freighter to Jocanda control.

VOICE: (DISTORTED) Receiving you freighter.

EDGEWORTH: Approaching re-entry. Permission to touch-down at Omega intersection.

VOICE: (DISTORTED) You are clear to approach.

EDGEWORTH: Thank you control.

VOICE: (DISTORTED) On arrival you will report to palace. Transport will be waiting. Out.

(ON EDGEWORTH:
HE ISN'T HAPPY)

9. INT. TARDIS. CONSOLE ROOM.

(THE DOCTOR
IS FIDDLING WITH
THE CONSOLE.

HUGO AND PERI
WATCH)

PERI: What are you going to do?

THE DOCTOR: Panic at any moment.

HUGO: Where is Edgeworth likely to have taken the twins?

THE DOCTOR: The palace.

HUGO: Shouldn't we go there?

THE DOCTOR: (OUTRAGED) And be killed?!

HUGO: Give me direction and I'll go alone if you're afraid.

THE DOCTOR: Me? Afriad?

HUGO: Aren't you?

THE DOCTOR: You have a nasty habit of pinpointing the truth, young man.

PERI: You can't let him go alone.

THE DOCTOR: You watch.

PERI: You know what's out there. He doesn't.

THE DOCTOR: Let him go to the palace. Then he'll know as much as I do.

PERI: You must help him, Doctor.

THE DOCTOR: Is this another attempt to teach me compassion?

HUGO: Just tell me where the palace is and I'll be happy to go alone.

THE DOCTOR: It's all right for you. You're young, strong, fit-of-limb, confident in your mission. Your energy is boundless. You are highly motivated to success... (MOURNFULLY) You even have a gun to enforce your will upon others. But look at me. I'm old, lacking in vigor. My mind is in a turmoil. I no longer know if I'm coming, have gone or even been. I'm falling to pieces. (INDICATES HIMSELF) I no longer even have any clothes sense.

PERI: Stop feeling sorry for yourself.

THE DOCTOR: Self pity is all I have left!

PERI: You still have the Tardis. And you still know how to operate it. Take the Lieutenant to the palace.

(HUGO LEVELS HIS
GUN AT THE DOCTOR)

HUGO: Now ... If you please.

THE DOCTOR: (SIGHS) As you wish.

TELECINE 3:

Ext. Joconda Landing Pad.

MODEL SHOT.

Edgeworth's ship hovers over the landing pad.

Slowly it begins to descend.

10. INT. TARDIS. CONSOLE ROOM.

(THE TIME ROTOR STOPS)

HUGO: Where are we?

(PERI OPERATES THE SCANNER-SCREEN.

ON IT WE SEE A PASSAGE BENEATH THE PALACE)

THE DOCTOR: The palace.

PERI: It's the seediest stately home I've ever seen.

THE DOCTOR: (ANNOYED) You did't expect me to materialise in the throne room?

HUGO: Where are the twins likely to be?

THE DOCTOR: Anywhere.

HUGO: Well, I won't find them waiting in here.

THE DOCTOR: I'll come with you.

HUGO: (SMUGLY) No need. Thank you for bringing me here.

(THE DOCTOR INDICATES HUGO'S GUN)

THE DOCTOR: You didn't give me much choice.

(THE DOCTOR IS
BECOMING ASSERTIVE)

Look, Lieutenant! Don't be smug with me. I've explained my Condition. I might be behaving like a manic barometer, but don't shrug off help when it's offered. You can't afford to.

HUGO: I thank you for your offer, Doctor, but I find you unreliable.

THE DOCTOR: So is most currency, but that doesn't stop people spending money wisely.

PERI: The Doctor would be useful.

(HUGO THINKS FOR
A MOMENT)

HUGO: All right ... But if you become unstable, Doctor, I won't hesitate in killing you.

(THE DOCTOR OPERATES
THE DOOR OPENING
MECHANISM)

11. INT. PALACE. CORRIDOR.

(WITH EDGEWORTH IN THE LEAD, NOMA AND DRAK ESCORT THE TWINS)

ROMULUS: Where are you taking us?

EDGEWORTH: You'll see.

REMUS: Why do you like to play the man of mystery?

ROMULUS: It's a role you play very badly.

REMUS: You're so blatently transparent.

(EDGEWORTH TURNS ON THE TWINS.

THEY IMMEDIATELY BECOME FRIGHTENED CHILDREN)

EDGEWORTH: (QUIETLY MENACING) Continue to provoke me and the matter that contains your genius will finish up as so much animal fodder.

(ON THE TWINS: THEY ARE TERRIFIED)

12. INT. PASSAGE. DARK.

(HUGO, PERI AND
THE DOCTOR LOOK
AROUND.

IN THE BACKGROUND
IS THE TARDIS)

PERI: (DOUBTFUL) Are you sure this is the right place?

THE DOCTOR: Absolutely. Azmael showed me once. This passage leads to the centre of the palace.

(HUGO HAS GUN AT
THE READY.

PERI HOLDS A
TORCH)

I think it was an underground bolt-hole in times of danger. Seems to be clear. Shall we go?

(THEY MOVE OFF)

Hold the torch steady. I never did like long dark tunnels.

PERI: I just hope you don't get us lost -

THE DOCTOR: (CHEERFULLY) Oh, there's every possibility of that. (cont ...)

(HUGO GLANCES
DAGGERS AT THE
DOCTOR)

THE DOCTOR: (cont) (SMILES NERVOUSLY)
Only a joke, dear thing, only a joke.

13. INT. PALACE. EDGEWORTH'S LABORATORY.

(EDGEWORTH, TWINS, DRAK AND NOMA ENTER.

NOMA REMAINS AT DOOR.

THEY LOOK AROUND IN AMAZEMENT.

APARTMENT FROM POSSESSING THE MOST SOPHISTOCATED EQUIPMENT - INCLUDING THAT FOR REGISTERING THE TWINS' EQUATIONS - THE LABORATORY CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

(1) ONE OF THOSE ASTRONOMICAL MODELS WHICH REPRESENT A SOLAR SYSTEM.

FROM A CENTRAL SUN RODS OF DIFFERENT LENGTHS PROJECT.

ON THE END OF EACH ROD IS A PLANET.

THIS GIVES US AN INDICATION OF THE POSITION OF EACH PLANET IN RELATION TO THE SUN.

JOCONDA'S SOLAR SYSTEM IS A VERY SIMPLE ONE.

THERE ARE ONLY THREE OTHER PLANETS ORBITING ITS SUN - ONE NEARER THE SUN THAN JOCONDA, AND TWO OTHERS FURTHER AWAY.

(2) DEMONSTRATION MODELS OF THE HUGE "DISHES" WHICH WILL EXERT A GRAVITATIONAL PULL CAPABLE OF PULLING THE THREE OTHER PLANETS OUT OF THEIR OWN ORBITS, AND INTO THE SAME ORBIT AS JOCONDA.

THIS WILL GIVE THEM THE SAME CLIMATES, AND AN OUTLET FOR THE UNCONTROLLABLE GROWTH OF THE GASTROPOD POPULATION.

EVERYTHING HAS BEEN SOLVED, AND IS IN READINESS, EXCEPT THE MEANS WHICH WILL TRIGGER THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL.

THE GENIUS OF THE TWINS IS NEEDED TO PROVIDE THE "TRIGGER".

AT THE BACK OF THE LABORATORY IS A GLASS WALL.

BEHIND IT WE SEE CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY.

GASTROPOD EGGS ARE BEING STACKED IN RACKS.

THE AREA IS HEAVILY GUARDED BY JOCONDAN GUARDS.

THE CHAMBERLAIN STANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LABORATORY FLOOR, ALL SMILES AND MOCK COURTESY)

CHAMBERLAIN: Greetings.

(THE TWINS STARE AT THE ACTIVITY BEHIND THE GLASS SCREEN)

ROMULUS: What's that?

EDGEWORTH: Eggs. You're looking at Lord Mestor's incubator - the future citizens of Joconda.

REMUS: They're gastropod eggs.

CHAMBERLAIN: Such knowledge.

ROMULUS: (INDICATING CHAMBERLAIN) And who is this?

EDGEWORTH: One of Lord Mestor's lackies.

(CHAMBERLAIN DOESN'T LIKE THE WORD "LACKY" BUT CONTINUES TO SMILE BROADLY)

CHAMBERLAIN: Not quite, Azmael. (TO THE TWINS) I am a humble servant of our Lord Mestor. I am his chamberlain ...

(CHAMBERLAIN PRESSES A SWITCH ON A CONSOLE AND THE LIGHT FADES ON THE INCUBATOR)

Welcome to the planet Joconda. I will inform the Lord Mestor of your safe arrival.

EDGEWORTH: If you must - do so.

CHAMBERLAIN: (SIMPERING) It is my duty. He has commanded me.

EDGEWORTH: Then hurry.

(THE CHAMBERLAIN MAKES
HESITANT BOW, DEPARTS.

EDGEWORTH LOOKS AT NOMA)

You, too, Noma.

(NOMA RETURNS HIS GAZE
WITH SAME COLD INSOLENCE
WE HAVE SEEN BEFORE)

NOMA: No. I must remain. I, too, have been commanded.

(EDGEWORTH STARES AT
HIM WITH CONTEMPT.

TURNS HIS BACK ON
HIM WITHOUT ANSWERING)

EDGEWORTH: (TO TWINS) One day you will discover for yourselves ... Treason is universal. Let it not concern you now. And do not be afraid of what lies in store for us ...

14. INT. PALACE. PASSAGEWAY. DARK.

(THE DOCTOR, PERI
AND HUGO ADVANCING
ALONG PASSAGE.

PERI, WITH HER
TORCH, IS PICKING
OUT A MURAL ON
THE WALLS - MURALS
WHICH - IN A DIFFERENT
CONTEXT - WOULD
REMIND US
IRRESISTABLY OF
MINOAN WALL-
PAINTINGS.

BUT GASTROPODS
INSTEAD OF BULLS.

EVERY PICTURE
TELLS A STORY.

AND, AS THEY
ADVANCE, THE
DOCTOR TELLS IT)

THE DOCTOR: I cannot say how old they are, but they tell the whole story ... The queen of Joconda offended the sun-god ... He inflicted a terrible punishment. She bore a creature to the King - half human and half slug ... This monster's offspring became numberless ... They ravaged the whole planet ... The population starved ... When he saw what he had done, the sun-god relented ... He sent a drought which destroyed the slugs ... The people of Joconda survived ...

(WE COME TO END
OF WALL-PAINTINGS)

That is the story as Azmael related it.

PERI: What do you think now?

THE DOCTOR: It was more truth than myth. I think some dormant egg survived.

PERI: For how long?

THE DOCTOR: Too long it seems.

(FAINT SOUND)

(QUICKLY) Switch off your torch!

(PERI CUTS TORCH.

THEY BECOME
SHADOWY FIGURES)

(WHISPER) Listen.

(IN THE SILENCE,
DISTANT SOUNDS
BECOME AUDIBLE -
THE FAINT MOOINGS
AND SLITHERINGS
OF GASTROPODS)

PERI: What is it?

THE DOCTOR: The sound of giant slugs?

(AT THAT MOMENT
THERE APPEARS
A GLOW AS A
GASTROPOD COMES
OUT OF A SIDE-
PASSAGE CLOSE
BY AND TURNS
TOWARDS THEM.

ALL THREE OF
THEM SHRINK BACK
AGAINST WALL OF
PASSAGE.

(THE GASTROPOD
PASSES THEM AND
TURNS DOWN
ANOTHER SIDE
PASSAGE)

HUGO: (RETCHING) What a stench!

THE DOCTOR: Their gastric tract. Rotting vegetables -

PERI: Or rotting flesh!

THE DOCTOR: Switch on the torch.

(AS SHE SWITCHES
ON TORCH, HUGO
SLIPS, LANDS UP
IN GASTROPOD'S
SLIME TRAIL)

HUGO: Doctor!

THE DOCTOR: (IMPATIENT) What is it now?

HUGO: I - I'm stuck!

(THE DOCTOR'S
IMPATIENCE LEAVES
HIM INSTANTLY.

HE GRABS TORCH
FROM PERI, STOOPS,
PRODS SLIME TRAIL
WITH FINGER)

THE DOCTOR: Quick, Peri. Give me a hand. (cont ...)

(THEY MANAGE TO
RAISE HUGO, BUT
HIS FEET REMAIN
STUCK)

(THE DOCTOR
ANNOYED WITH
HIMSELF)

THE DOCTOR: (cont) I should have thought of that. These slime trails harden like concrete. But far faster.

HUGO: Just get me out!

THE DOCTOR: Easier said than done.

PERI: You can't leave him here!

HUGO: If I turn my gun down to low power, it might melt the stuff -

THE DOCTOR: By all means. Try not to burn your feet off, though.

15. INT. PALACE EDGEWORTH'S LABORATORY.

(MESTOR SUPPORTED ON EACH SIDE BY JACONDAN GUARDS, IS STARING AT THE TWINS WITH BALEFUL CURIOSITY.

EDGEWORTH IS NEAR HIM, WITH THE CHAMBERLAIN.

NOMA AND DRAK STAND BY THE DOOR)

MESTOR: (TO EDGEWORTH) So these are your own prodigies ... They seem insignificant enough.

EDGEWORTH: Their brains are not.

MESTOR: H'mm ... we shall see. Have you told them why we need then?

EDGEWORTH: Not in detail. So far they have simply worked to orders.

MESTOR: I suggest you do tell them. If they know our purpose is benevolent, they may prove less intransigent.

EDGEWORTH: Very well.

MESTOR: How far are you advanced?

EDGEWORTH: We need another day.

MESTOR: (NODDING) Very well. I will leave you. (cont ...)

(THE GUARDS START
TO SHUFFLE HIM
TOWARDS THE DOOR.

EDGEWORTH COMES
AFTER HIM)

MESTOR: (cont) What is it?

EDGEWORTH: Do not monitor my thoughts.

MESTOR: Why not?

EDGEWORTH: It interferes with my concentration.

MESTOR: Ah! But they might be treasonable thoughts.

EDGEWORTH: There can be no treason without fellow-conspirators. I have none. You control the minds of my most faithful subjects.

MESTOR: I don't trust you.

EDGEWORTH: A mistake, Mestor. The last hope for my people is the success of this undertaking. I would not allow any personal loathing for you to interfere with that. (POINTING AT NOMA) Remove him, too.

(MESTOR CONSIDERS
THESE REQUESTS.
HE IS RELUCTANT)

MESTOR: (DECIDING) Very well. Until your work is done.

(MESTOR IS HELPED
FROM LABORATORY.

CHAMBERLAIN AND
NOMA FOLLOW HIM
OUT.

EDGEWORTH IS ALONE
WITH TWINS AND
DRAK)

EDGEWORTH: (TO DRAK) By having Noma removed marks you as my friend.

DRAK: I can cope with your friendship.

EDGEWORTH: It may cost you your life.

DRAK: I can think of worst reasons for dying.

(EDGEWORTH EXTENDS
HIS HAND.

DRAK ACCEPTS
IT AND SHAKES IT
FIRMLY)

EDGEWORTH: (QUIETLY) Thank you.

(EDGEWORTHS' MANNER
CHANGES. HE BECOMES
BRISK, LIKE AN
OLD FASHIONED SCHOOL
TEACHER)

(TO TWINS) Pay attention.
(cont ...)

(HE PRESSES SWITCH
ON THE CONSOLE.

A DIAGRAM (ANIMATED)
APPEARS ON A WALL
SCREEN.

THE DIAGRAM SHOWS
JOCONDAN AND TWO
OTHER SMALLER
PLANETS IN DIFFERENT
ORBITS REVOLVING
ROUND JOCONDA'S
SUN.

EDGEWORTH USES
POINTER)

EDGEWORTH: (cont) That is our sun ... that is Joconda ... those are two lesser planets ... I once ruled Joconda, but now Mestor has usurped me. His kind take all and give nothing. There is nothing left for my people.

REMUS: What are we supposed to do?

EDGEWORTH: Help me provide the only possible solution.

(EDGEWORTH TURNS
FROM SCREEN, PAUSES)

ROMULUS: You'd better tell us what is it.

(EDGEWORTH TURNS
BACK TO SCREEN,
USING POINTER)

EDGEWORTH: We need new sources of supply ... (INDICATING) We are going to bring those two planets into orbit round Joconda.

TWINS: (STUNNED) What?

EDGEWORTH: Oh, yes. They will then have the same atmospheres and climates. They will be the larders of Joconda.

REMUS: Have you any idea what might happen?

EDGEWORTH: I know the risks. They must be taken.

ROMULUS: And what are we supposed to do?

EDGEWORTH: Everything is in readiness. All we lack is what you two possess - that mathematica delicacy which will stabilize those planets in their new orbit.

16. INT. PALACE PASSAGE BENEATH PALACE.

(HUGO IS STILL
WORKING TO RELEASE
HIS FEET FROM THE
HARDENED SLIME-
TRAIL.

THE DOCTOR IS
TALKING ALOUD TO
HIMSELF)

THE DOCTOR: Now let me see ... We follow this passage to the end ... A flight of steps up to the palace hall. A doorway on the left just before the top. Yes, that's it. A private doorway to the back of his laboratory. That's where he's bound to be.

PERI: Who?

THE DOCTOR: What?

PERI: Who'll be there?

THE DOCTOR: Me. Once I can get away from this fool.

(THE DOCTOR IS
ENTERING A NEW
MANIC PHASE.

HE LOOKS DOWN
AT HUGO WITH
SUDDEN IRRITATION)

Hurry! Hurry!

HUGO: I'm doing the best I can.

THE DOCTOR: It's not good enough!

(TO PERI - VICIOUS)

You stupid girl'. Look what you've done. Ruined everything.

PERI: It wasn't my fault.

THE DOCTOR: Of course it was your fault. Sheer carelessness. Turning off the torch as you did. Don't argue with me.

PERI: I certainly shall. I'm not letting a manic - depressive, paranoid personality like you shut me up.

THE DOCTOR: Manic-depressive? Me?

(PERI LOOKS AS THOUGH SHE'S ABOUT TO SWIPE HIM)

PERI: (FURIOUS) Can't you hear yourself? You're starting one of your fits.

(THE DOCTOR SEETHING WITH RAGE)

THE DOCTOR: How dare you talk to me like that! I'm off.

HUGO: Calm down, Doctor -

THE DOCTOR: Ha! Calm down! The fate of a whole planet hanging in the balance, and he tells me to calm down!

HUGO: It'll only take a few minutes more -

(BUT THE DOCTOR
IS ALREADY STORMING
OFF INTO THE DARKNESS
OF THE PASSAGE,
LEAVING THE TORCH
BEHIND)

THE DOCTOR: (SHOUTING) Fend for yourselves!

PERI: (CALLING) Doctor!

HUGO: Don't waste your breath. We'll manage ...

18. INT. EDGEWORTH'S LABORATORY.

(EDGEWORTH ADDRESSING TWINS.

HE IS AT A CONTROL PANEL)

EDGEWORTH: Everything is controlled from this panel.. When the information you provide has been fed into the computer, we depress this switch -

REMUS: And what happens if we refuse to help?

EDGEWORTH: Then I shall kill you. I've already told you this is the only way to save my people.

ROMULUS: Aren't you forgetting the consequence of what you're asking?

EDGEWORTH: Evreything has been considered. How many more times must I tell you?

REMUS: He's mad.

ROMULUS: Quite mad.

REMUS: Neurotic, psychotic ...

ROMULUS: And despotic. (EMPHATICALLY) You can't play with the universe as though it were a toy.

REMUS: (SINISTERLY) That´way lies death and disaster.

19. INT. PALACE. CORRIDOR.

(THE DOCTOR ENTERS
MUTTERING TO HIMSELF.

HE MAKES HIS WAY
ALONG THE CORRIDOR)

THE DOCTOR: Azmael ... Edgeworth. Whatever you may call yourself, your time is up!

(THE DOCTOR WALKS
PAST THE LABORATORY
DOOR.

FROM BEHIND THE DOOR
WE HEAR EDGEWORTH'S
VOICE)

EDGEWORTH: (OOV) You will do as you're told!

(THE DOCTOR TURNS
BACK TO THE LABORATORY
DOOR)

THE DOCTOR: Still bullying children, eh.

(THE DOCTOR THROWS
OPEN THE DOOR
AND ENTERS:)

20. INT. PALACE. EDGEWORTH'S LABORATORY.

(THE DOCTOR'S FACE IS CONTORTED WITH RAGE)

THE DOCTOR: Villain! Murderer!

EDGEWORTH: (TURNING) Doctor?

(THE DOCTOR MAKES A BLIND RUSH AT EDGEWORTH)

THE DOCTOR: (SCREAMING) A thousand murrains on your head!

(THE TWO MEN STRUGGLE BRIEFLY, AND THE TWINS AND DRAK RUSH IN TO HELP PULL THE DOCTOR OFF.

BUT THE DOCTOR'S MADNESS DESERTS HIM IN A SECOND. THE FIGHT IS OVER)

I apologize. All the same, I still don't understand why you wanted to kill us.

DRAK: He didn't.

ROMULUS: He didn't know -

REMUS: It was the other man.

EDGEWORTH: (STILL SHAKEN) I can't believe it. How did you escape?

THE DOCTOR: That doesn't matter now. I think you'd better tell me what's going on.

21. INT. PALACE. PASSAGE.

(HUGO AND PERI.

AT LAST THEY
SUCCEED IS FREEING
HUGO'S FEET)

PERI: Pity about your boots. You'll have to try and make it barefoot.

HUGO: I don't mind. Where do we go from here?

PERI: Find the Doctor.

(BUT THEY ARE
TOO LATE.

TWO GUARDS JUMP
THEM. THEY ARE
TAKEN COMPLETELY
BY SURPRISE.

SHORT, FIERCE STRUGGLE
IN WHICH HUGO IS
KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS.

ONE GUARD HOLDS
PERI.

THE OTHER STOOPS
OVER HUGO.

HE GIVES HIM A
KICK IN THE RIBS.
HUGO DOESN'T EVEN
GROAN.

THEY DRAG PERI
STRUGGLING OFF TOWARDS
END OF PASSAGE)

22. INT. MESTOR'S THRONE ROOM.

(MESTOR, SEATED
ON DAIS, IS
TALKING TO NOMA,
WHO LOOKS IN VERY
CONFIDENT MOOD)

MESTOR: who were these people on Titan Three?

NOMA: A Time Lord and an earth girl.

MESTOR: And Azmael would have let them live!

NOMA: Yes.

MESTOR: But now he knows them to be dead?

NOMA: He does. I told him so.

MESTOR: You have done well, Noma.

NOMA: No more than my duty.

(AT THIS MOMENT
THE TWO GUARDS
ENTER, DRAGGING
PERI WITH THEM)

MESTOR: What have we here?

(NOMA IS COMPLETELY
STAGGERED BY THE
SIGHT OF PERI.
FRIGHTENED)

NOMA: Impossible! She died! She must have died!

(MESTOR TURNS HIS
GAZE ON NOMA,
SEES HIS FEAR)

MESTOR: Is this the earthling girl you said you killed?

(NOMA CANNOT
FIND WORDS)

MESTOR: (GRIMLY) It seems you did not do so well after all.

(TO GUARDS)

Where did you find this creature?

FIRST GUARD: In a passage underneath the palace.

MESTOR: Alone?

FIRST GUARD: There was another with her. We left him half-dead.

MESTOR: (DISTURBED) This is a dangerous complication. I cannot have Time Lords at large in the palace - half-dead or otherwise. Fetch him here.

23. INT. PALACE. EDGEWORTH'S LABORATORY.

(EDGEWORTH, THE DOCTOR, THE TWINS, AND DRAK.

EDGEWORTH HAS BEEN EXPLAINING HIS WHOLE PLAN TO THE DOCTOR, WHO IS NOW COMPLETELY RATIONAL)

EDGEWORTH: This is the plan. What is your opinion?

THE DOCTOR: You really intend to put it into operation?

ROMULUS: We've already explained.

THE DOCTOR: You know what will happen, don't you?

EDGEWORTH: Risks must be taken.

THE DOCTOR: This is not a risk, Azmael. This is Doomsday ... Your sun is a dying sun. It will warm Joconda for another fifty million years if you leave well alone. But do this awful thing ... My friend, your suns's no longer stable. It is going to explode. You are going to blow a small hole in the universe -

(A SUDDEN INTERRUPTION.

HUGO, BLOOD-STAINED, STAGGERS IN THROUGH DOOR AT REAR OF THE LABORATORY.

(THEY ALL TURN)

HUGO: (GASPING) Doctor ... Doctor! They've got Peri ...

(HE STUMBLES. COLLAPSES IN FRONT OF THEM)

THE DOCTOR: Peri? They'll kill her.

(THE DOCTOR RUSHES TOWARDS THE DOOR, BUT DRAK AND EDGEWORTH RESTRAIN HIM)

I must go to her! Leave me!

EDGEWORTH: And tell Mestor everything. Condemn my planet to certain death.

THE DOCTOR: I must help her!

EDGEWORTH: No, Doctor. If necessary she must die.

THE DOCTOR: No!

(SCREAMS)

Peri!!!

SUPOSE CAM

End Credits:

FADE OUT